

On-site Wastewater Stakeholder Meeting
August 1, 2011, 1-5
DNR Elm Street Conference Center, Jefferson City, MO

Crystal Lovett-Facilitator

Introduction of all speakers and attendees
82 attendees including 22 DHSS/DNR staff

Speakers:

Dept Natural Resources

John Hoke

Chuck Harwood

Dept Health and Senior Services

Mary Glassburner

Jim Gaughan

Crystal Lovett, stated goals for the stakeholders

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) shall jointly hold stakeholder meetings for (1) the purpose of gathering data and information regarding permits and inspections for on-site sewage disposal systems, (2) to evaluate the data and information obtained and (3) to present their findings and recommendations in a report to be submitted to the general assembly by December 31, 2011.

Chuck Harwood raised question: how many people in the room understood the jurisdictional differences between DNR and DHSS?, by a show of hands from attendees. Between 75 to 80 % of the group raised their hands that they understood the jurisdictional differences.

John Hoke with DNR's Water Protection Program spoke first.

He gave a brief summary of how water quality has evolved in the last 30 years. Starting with the Clean Water Act, Congress determined water in the United States needed to be adequate for fishing and swimming.

Mary Glassburner gave a history of how wastewater sanitation evolved. She listed environmental risk factors that impact human health and discussed DHSS Onsite Wastewater Treatment program mission. (See slides)

Jim Gaughan covered the health perspective in the state, how 1 in 4 homes do not have wastewater systems. The systems DHSS regulate are "onsite" single-family domestic systems. (See slides)

Chuck Harwood covered the definition of domestic wastewater and DNR's jurisdiction of single-family residential housing developments/multiple residential housing and recreational developments and all industrial waste, which is everything not defined as domestic wastewater. (See slides)

David Casselletto handed out sheet of topics the signatories would like to cover in the meeting.

White Board Notes

Challenges/Concerns

- No-discharge lagoons—lack of oversight/lack of regulations
- Older developments with septic on smaller lots
- Need alternatives for small lots—for example, discharging systems
- Need Alternatives for high clay soils
- Enforcement Priorities—wastewater systems are not a priority for local prosecutors
- Maintenance requirements need to be improved and consistent
- Life span of onsite systems
- Funding
- Equity in EPA/DNR (SRF, 319) funding—(1) greater percentage should go to onsite systems, (2) funding should be available to private and public sector, (3) timing should match need
- 3-acre exemption—(1) incorrect interpretation, (2) lack of oversight of installation by DHSS
- Conflict of interest between inspectors and contractors
- Flexibility for water efficiency
- Need more tools to deal with existing systems
- Alternatives for additions to homes

Possible Solutions

- Inspection of onsite systems at property transfer
- Require maintenance of advanced systems
- Regulation of onsite pumpers (1) make trucks more identifiable for tracking, (2) loads should be tracked, (3) require registration of pumpers
- Allow use of surface systems when absolutely necessary
- Provide more EPA funding through 319 grants—federal legislation
- Reduce need for variances
- Public Service Announcements for maintenance on onsite systems
- State-required maintenance
- Performance-based solutions
- Rewrite Green Book (DHSS)
- Collaboration between DHSS and DNR
- Permanent stakeholders meetings
- Clarification of jurisdiction/Redraw jurisdiction –single family/small business; <3000 gal/>3000 gal, 3-acre exemption, < 7 lots
- Provide for administrative enforcement